

**Interview with Enid Miles  
Conducted by Linda Byrne for the  
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective**

**February 27, 2007**

**Linda:** Tell me where you live?

**Enid:** Gaithersburg, MD., but my husband's family is from Jermantown. His grandfather Charlie Jerman grew up on a farm there. Is that in the Providence District?

**Linda:** Yes, there is Jermantown Road here.

**Enid:** That is his family and the town is still there, they still have a sign up that says Jermantown. Charlie Jerman died when he was 96 I believe or 98 and he would tell stories what it was like growing up there on a farm and the Briggs family, his sister married they knew the butcher business and in fact Charlie as a young boy had his favorite horse a stallion with a beautiful black body and a beautiful blaze on his head and Charlie was only 9 years old or so delivering cut pieces of meat to different customers around the Jermantown area.

**Linda:** What years would that have been?

**Enid:** We have a history, my brother in law did a very detailed history of the Jerman family and it goes way back and it tells about Charlie too.

**Linda:** So that would be Jermantown in Providence District.

**Enid:** That would go back to the 1900's at least.

**Linda:** Now, please give me your name and address.

**Enid:** Enid Lenore Miles that is a Celtic name meaning soul. My mother loved Alfred Lloyd Tennyson anyway, I live out at 28 Maryland Avenue in

Gaithersburg, MD and we are the old model home for 74 Villa's that exist out in the Asbury Methodist Village.

**Linda:** And this is a retirement community?

**Enid:** Yes, but we are sort of an anomaly out there because our house is free standing and we are the model home for the villas of which there is 74. We live off of Maryland Avenue and everybody else lives off of Russell, so we are sort of the odd balls.

**Linda:** So tell me when you lived in Fairfax?

**Enid:** We lived there from 56' to 62' and we had our boys baptized at Truro Church where President George Washington was one of the elders and had helped to run that church. We have relatives on my husband's side, Murray E. Miles what was her name, she was a cousin of his that lived on Main Street in Fairfax for years and years and years, Irma Whiting she was his half sister and she grew up on the farm in Germantown with Charlie. We have a copy if you would like it of the Jerman family and the aligned families. My brother in law who is a graduate of St. Albans is a geologist, oh boy, he does this carefully he checks all the records, birth records so it is all there and he did a very careful job. The English Department of St. Albans would be very proud of him because he was a renegade at school but he graduated and he has this all annotated. Everything is documented so he found all the relatives and Charlie was a real character. He was a member of the Board of Trade and he went through 3 or 4 businesses, Charlie Jerman. Everyone loved Charlie, he was never negative about anybody or anything he kept upbeat and he married Murray's grandmother and she was from Keocook, Iowa and my mother in law my husband's mother grew up here in Washington and went to Wilson High.

**Linda:** You must have seen some changes living in Fairfax County.

**Enid:** We were there at the early time and it was unbelievable. We lived in Little River Hills and our water came from Falls Church and our library system was under Fairfax County but at that time it was only the town of Fairfax, then we became the City of Fairfax. It was rather perplexing, we

actually paid a poll tax to vote when we were there from 56' to 62' and we had to pay \$12 each in order to vote. It was Little River Hills off of Little River Turnpike Rt. 236. It was in the town and then it became a city and I was a Republican Precinct Chairman and we decided to move back, we had been moving, my husband was in the Navy and he served in the Korean War for 2 years and then served under Admiral Rickover subsequently for 25 years. Anyway we were living in Little River Hills and I had been working on that and my husband said I want to move back to Maryland because his parents were from there and he had grown up in Kentwood and he just simply wanted to get back to Maryland. We put the house up for sale and that a month later it turned out this huge Exxon storage for gasoline facility was going to be put up right along the property lines of our development. Little River Hills is very pretty, it is still there and people said oh you were in politics so you knew about this. We didn't know anything about it we were just doing it. So it was rather difficult to sell the house.

**Linda:** Then there was that oil spill, was that later?

**Enid:** That oil spill where people had to evacuate, leave their homes and get out and their properties and investments were worth nothing and it came from that oil storage thing. What amazes me is how could that happen so quickly, how could they not do? I mean there was no notification to the neighbors or community or the impact of what happened.

**Linda:** Do you remember the year of that spill?

**Enid:** About 62' not it was later, it was after we moved in 62'. It was about 8 to 10 years later and it was very, very, serious.

**Linda:** I remember I think Gerry Connolly who is now Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County was the Mantua Homeowners Association President at that time and he later went on to become Providence District Supervisor and now is Chairman of the Board of Supervisor's and now is running for U.S. Congress because Tom Davis stepped down and didn't run again. Really interesting, what other changes did you see in Fairfax County?

**Enid:** Unbelievable, did I mention the library system, all of the public library facilities were owned by another political entity and that rather disturbed us and also the poll tax. We did have Irma Whiting and Charlie was still alive then and we lived in Little River Hills as I said the main changes were the traffic. Oh, Rt. 236 use to be a bread loaf, I can remember riding back and forth to Maryland to get to Fairfax and our home and it was a bread loaf. Do you know what I mean? The roads were shaped like the top of a loaf of baked bread and finally they expanded that and it made a big difference.

**Linda:** I-495 came in to make it easier.

**Enid:** And then that Mall came in. Right through town the roads use to be one lane each way, occasionally two lanes on one side of the road but then it had heavy, heavy traffic. Fairfax Circle developed first I believe I don't remember to well.

**Linda:** Well this is interesting, I have run into you here at the office of Henry Sloan a Myotherapist in Maryland and so we have just off the cuff done this brief interview. If I could get your signature on a release form, that would be wonderful.

**Enid:** Sure I would be glad to.

**Linda:** So you moved over to Maryland and your husband?

**Enid:** We lived in Chevy Chase for 43 years and it was a good move. We had Park land on two sides at the end of Derussey Parkway and my mother in law was still in the big old house in Kentwood and she sold it and went to Sumner Village so it was very perspicuous to be around for her later years and she lived until she was 94. So that worked out very well.

**Linda:** Great, well thank you very much.

**Enid:** I enjoyed it, thank you.